CHAPTER V.—DEPARTMENTS OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES.

(i) Food Supplies.

358. With a view to attain self-sufficiency by 1951, the Articles of Food Acquisition (Harvest) Order 1949 was promulgated in November 1949 in pursuance of the All-India policy of monopoly and maximum procurement of foodgrains. The seasonal conditions were better than the previous year, but the paddy crop suffered from inadequate rainfall, pest and diseases, particularly in the malnad districts with the result that the production of paddy was not as good as was estimated in the beginning. The production of dry crops was somewhat better. The final estimates of acreage and production of foodgrains under the Khariff harvest 1950 were as follows :—

		Acreage.	*Production (Pallas.)*
Paddy	...	7,48,382	46,77,422
Ragi	...	18,74,604	40,48,697
Jola	...	3,27,835	4,76,453
Minor Millets.	...	3,62,978	3,82,826

359. Under the Food Acquisition (Harvest) Order 1949, the following quantities of foodgrains were procured during the year:—

Paddy	...	...	14,66,400	pallas
Ragi	...	...	2,26,767	,,
Jola	...	...	35,701	,,
Other grains	...	...	5,891	,,

360. The basic plan for 1949 which came into operation from the beginning of January 1949, continued to operate during the latter part of the year 1949. The basic plan for 1950, came into existence from the beginning of January 1950. The State, being as usual deficit in respect of all foodgrains, had necessarily to depend upon import assistance for maintaining controlled distribution even at the existing scales. The State was promised a ceiling quota

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of 1,00,000 tons of food-grains for 1949, which was subsequently raised to 1,20,000 tons, but the actual supplies exceeded a little over 1,30,000 tons.

361. The Government of India revised the pool prices for all supplies of imported foodgrains made on or after 1st January 1950 as follows :—

Rice	...	Rs.	22	0	0	per maund
Wheat Flour	...	„	19	8	0	„
Wheat	...	„	15	0	0	„
Barley, Maize, Millets and Milo.		„	11	4	0	„

362. The following quantities of foodgrains were imported into the State under the basic plans for 1949 and 1950 :—

Rice	...	...	35,663	tons
Millets	...	...	12,980	„
Maize	...	...	235	„
Wheat	...	...	38,303	„

363. Statutory rationing was continued in the four Cities, *viz.*, Bangalore (including Civil Station), Mysore, Kolar Gold Field and Davangere and informal rationing was continued over the rest of the State. Issues were continned to be made through Government Depots, Co-operative Societies, etc., as in previous years. Supplies to the retail depots were continued to be made by Government Reserve Depots. The system of wholesalers which was prevailing in the Civil Station was abandoned and the storage of reserve stocks with effect from the 8th October and supply to the retail depots in this area was also taken over to Government. Arrangements made during the previous year for the supply of bulk allotments to large employees for distribution to their labour were continued at the usual subsidised rates, as in previous years. Supplies to planters for distribution amongst their labour were continued as in previous years, on monthly permits from Government and from surplus holders depending on the local conditions. They were also allowed to retain paddy grown on their lands in the estate area for consumption by their labourers.

364. The Mysore State Railway continued to be an independent unit for distribution of foodgrains to their employees as in previous years and supplies made to them on the basis of monthly bulk allotments. Bulk supplies were continued to be made to the Mysore State Troops and their families through the Mysore Lancers' Co-operative Society.

365. The Civil Station, Bangalore continued to be an independent rationing area for rationing as in the previous years. The selling rates continued to be identical with those in the City and other parts of the State.

366. The inter-District movement of foodgrains was primarily confined to rice from the districts of Shimoga, Mysore, Mandya, Hassan and Chikmagalur to the principal deficit areas, *viz.*, Bangalore City and Civil Station, Mysore City, Kolar Gold Field and Kolar, Tumkur and Chitaldrug Districts. Ragi was also moved from Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur, Mysore, Hassan and Chitaldrug districts mainly to the rationed and industrial areas. The movement was arranged as usual according to monthly programmes drawn up at the beginning of each month. As in previous years, the scheme for utilisation of rice millowners in the procurement of paddy and distribution of rice was continued under the revised terms of agreement approved by Government in January 1949.

367. The usual measures of preservation, pest control and sanitation, such as cleaning of the premises, brushing the stocks, spraying with pyrethrum extract, fumigation of infested grains with Ethylene Dichloride and Carbon Tetrochloride and of empty bags with cyanogas dust and cyanogassing and blocking of rat holes were conducted periodically in all Government godowns and Emergency depots in Bangalore City.

368. The Mysore Food (Restriction of Service of Meals by Catering Establishments and others) Order of 1949 continued to be in force during the year. Clause 6 of the said order relating to feeding of persons during marriages, funeral and catering to gathering by catering establishments was amended by Government in March 1950. Action was taken to close down unauthorised restaurants and hotels in the State in accordance with the

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accepted policy, to minimise the number of hotels particularly in rural areas, as such hotels have proved to be active centres of blackmarketing and are mainly responsible for the rise in the prices of articles in daily use by the common man.

369. The following figures furnish the stocks of different foodgrains in the State at the end of the year :—

Foodgrain	Position on	
	31-3-50	31-3-49
	figures in pallas.	
1. Paddy	8,63,395	8,43,796
2. Rice	1,33,006	1,54,133
3. Ragi	1,89,402	61,172
4. Broken Rice	2,957	18,594
5. Jola including Milo	11,236	10,493
6. Wheat	32,348	14,210
7. Wheat products	7,532	5,343
8. Maize	...	3,899
9. Minor Millets	4,231	388

370. The substantial improvement in the stock position of ragi over that in the corresponding period of last year was due to the better seasonal conditions that prevailed during the year.

371. Agreeably to the policy of the Government of India, control over the prices and sale of sugar was reintroduced in the State also in September 1949 and the sugar and sugar products control over 1949 was promulgated in September 1949 substantially on the model of the previous year issued in 1947. In the interim period, the stocks with the merchants were frozen and taken over by Government for being issued to the consumers through Government Depots and Co-operative Societies, including multipurpose co-operative societies. Consequent on the failure of water in the Krishnarajasagar Dam, there was an unexpected fall in the anticipated sugar production from 20,000 tons to a little over 16,000 tons. Sugar issues were curtailed both to the consumers and the catering establishments and trades requiring sugar for their manufactures. The standing cane crop also was badly affected by draught. The stocks at the close of the year were only 86,000 bags. The monthly offtakes of sugar during the closing months of the year were 15,378 bags in January, 15,735 in February and 16,981 in March 1950.

372. An export quota of 250 bags of sugar per month was permitted to Coorg during the year. The sugar position was causing much concern due to lack of water for the cane and poor crushing at the factory at the end of the year.

Jaggery

373. Jaggery was available in fairly large quantities in the open market. There was an upward trend in the prices during the latter part of the period consequent on the reimposition of control in June 1949.

Chillies

374. The prices of dry chillies during the middle part of the year showed an abnormal increase and with a view to conserve the stocks, the export of chillies was banned in November 1949.

Vegetable oil Products.

375. Control over vegetable oil products continued during the year. There were 1,881 dealers all over the State licensed by the Department to sell these products at the end of the year.

376. The policy regarding free export of miscellaneous commodities like onions, tamarind and gingelly or achellu continued unchanged.

Kerosene oil

377. The Commissioner for Food Production in Mysore was appointed as ex-officio Keresene Controller in Mysore in October 1949 in place of the Director of Food Supplies.

Fuel Supplies

378. The supply of fuel to Bangalore City and Civil Station through the agency of Bangalore Fuel Supply and Transport Company was continued till the end of December 1949. The tender of the Mysore National Contractors and Suppliers, Ltd., was accepted by Government in December 1949 for the supply of fuel to Bangalore City and Civil Station. Consequent on partial decontrol, private dealers were allowed to trade in fuel after obtaining a license from the Municipal Corporation.

379. The supplies during the year were normal and a reserve stock of 5,000 tons has been built up in the Government Reserve Depot at Civil Station to meet emergencies.

Food Councils.

380. The reconstituted Central Food Council met six times during the year. Meetings of the District and Taluk Food Councils were convened quarterly simultaneously with the meetings of the Development Committees.

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Food Police.

381. There were 623 cases of prosecution for food offences pending at the beginning of the year. Three thousand three hundred and sixteen fresh cases were instituted bringing the total to 3,939 for disposal. Of these, 2,962 cases were disposed of, 2,258 cases ended in conviction, 650 in acquittal or discharge and 54 cases being withdrawn. Nine hundred and seventy-seven cases were pending disposal at the end of the year.

382. An allotment of Rs. 15,000 was sanctioned for the grant of rewards for the detection of food offences and their successful prosecution.

383. Foodgrains of the value of, Rs. 4,89,02,875 were purchased locally and Rs. 4,40,86,735 from outside the State. The sales during the period amounted to Rs. 7,28,37,089 and the stock on hand at the end of the year was Rs. 3,05,29,317. The contribution received from the Government of India towards 50 per cent subsidy on imported foodgrains was Rs. 51,01,243. The net deficit for the year was Rs. 1,25,72,587.

384. The net deficit to the Food Supplies Department from the inception of the scheme up to the end of the year was Rs. 5,85,63,657.

(ii) Civil Supplies

Textiles.

385. In accordance with the all India Policy, the following orders continued to be in force in the State:—

(1) The Mysore Cotton Textiles (Control) Order, 1948.
(2) The Mysore Cotton Cloth Dealers' (Licensing) Order, 1948.
(3) The Cotton Yarn (Control of Distribution) Order, 1948, and
(4) The Cotton Textile (Control of Movement) Order, 1948.

386. The Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Transmission by Post) Prohibition Order, 1944 was cancelled with effect from 25th November 1949.

387. The three agencies, *viz.*, Nominees, Wholesalers and Retail cloth dealers, instituted in the State for movement of cloth from Mills to the consumers continued to function with suitable margins of profits to each agency.